

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 29. Accordingly, Applicants are amending Claim 29 to place it in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (there are no intervening claims). No amendments have been made to change the scope of this claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claim 29 now be allowed.

Applicants will now address each of the Examiner's remaining rejections in the order in which they appear in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claim 26 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Toyama (US 6,475,354). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicants traverse this rejection, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Claim 26 is being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

The Examiner also rejects Claims 27 and 28 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Namiki et al. (US 6,286,452) in view of Takeuchi (US 4,096,026). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

While Applicants traverse this rejection, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Claim 27 is being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claim 28 written in independent form including all the limitations of Claim 27.

In the rejection of Claim 28, the Examiner contends that Namiki discloses in Fig. 1 that “the center axis of the target is offset from the center axis of the substrate and because they are offset, there is inherently a predetermined angle between the substrate and target.”

However, Claim 28 recites that “the target is placed so that the opposed surfaces of the target and the substrate form a predetermined angle therebetween.” This predetermined angle is the target inclination angle in Fig. 8 of the present application wherein the target surface is inclined from the direction of the plane of the surface of the substrate forming an angle therebetween. In contrast, Namiki merely discloses that the center axis of the target is offset from the center axis of the substrate. This does not disclose or suggest an inclination angle or angle between the surface of the target and the surface of the substrate. Hence, the cited references do not disclose or suggest the apparatus of Claim 28, and Claim 28 is patentable thereover.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

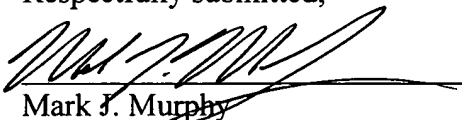
It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any fee is due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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